

British Bechuanaland Update

Dave Smith (#1514)

Bob Szymanski's article in the September/October 2009 *Bulletin* (63:107) reminded me of a British Bechuanaland perfinned stamp that I own. It was included in a small collection of British Africa perfins that I purchased about five years ago.

The stamp appears to be a British Bechuanaland Scott #34 with a black overprint on a Great Britain #113. With the help of Maurice Harp, Editor *G.B. Perfins Society Bulletin*, the perfins were identified as pattern K039.01 in the "Tomkins Perfin Catalog". Maurice further states that the user for this pattern is Kelly & Co., a Directories company who has nothing to do with British



Bechuanaland.

To help answer the questions about the authenticity of this stamp, Maurice then forwarded a scan of the stamp to Tony Stanford, Secretary of the GB Overprints Society. As discussed in Tony's article on the next page (page 136), it appears the overprint on this stamp and the one in the previous *Bulletin* article are bogus and were probably applied after the British stamps were perfined. There was no attempt or thought of creating a "fraudulent" perfin, just an inexpensive "space filler".

[Editor's note: Many thanks go to Maurice and Tony for their assistance in identifying these stamps and sharing their expert knowledge with us.]